This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news economic and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1479 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1939. | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 29, NO. 33

If a principle is good for anything, it is worth living up to.—Franklin.

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

So many things have been happening in the past week that we've had to do a lot of traveling between Washington, Atlantic City and New York to keep up with them.

From Atlantic City came the best news in a long while. That is not only our own characterization but also the considered opinion of the press and public. We refer, of course, to the far-reaching and progressive plan adopted by the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor for banishing all jurisdictional strikes in the construction industry.

No greater step could be taken by organized labor in the self-determination of its own problems. Because with it is provided that jurisdictional disputes will be settled without any interruption of work.

This step was hailed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in Atlantic City, as a most timely activity and a boon to labor, business and the public alike. John Coyne, newly elected President of the Building and Construction Trades Department, declared it automatically turned on the green light on the road to recovery. Mayor La Guardia of New York City said he was immediately preparing to rush twenty-five million dollars worth of home construction.

Our hats are off to President Coyne and his colleagues in the Building and Construction Trades Department. President Coyne certainly has started off his administration auspiciously. More power to him. He can count on all of organized labor to help him.

The Boys Are Marching

Fifth Avenue on a hot Saturday afternoon in New York is usually a quiet place. All the shops are closed. Most of the crowds are away cooling off at the beach. Traffic is light.

But not so last Saturday.

The greatest parade in labor's history made Fifth Avenue echo with the tramping feet of labor's hosts and the resounding cheers of 150,000 working men and women as they hailed the President of the American Federation of Labor, William Green.

President Green marched himself at the head of the parade, all the way from 16th to 86th streets and then stood for hours reviewing and cheering on the reviewing stand to salute the happy ranks of shirtsleeved marchers.

There were bands, and floats and flags and banners galore, and celebrities were forever having difficulty in getting out of each other's way, but the thing that impressed us most was the glowing face of President Green as he stood there responding to the tributes of his own people. To a man who for so many years has been carrying the burdens and the problems of American workers on his shoulders through times of peace and times of stress, this convincing demonstration of loyalty must have lightened the load and given him new inspiration to carry on with undiminished vigor.

While we're on the subject of impressions, the public officials of New York City and New York State must have come away from the parade with a pretty good idea of the strength and the power and the spirit of the American Federation of Labor. No other labor organization in the world let alone the United States, can show so many workers in so many fields united in a common cause.

A State Congress of Labor

A few days later, New York labor demonstrated that it can not only march but deliberate. The Fifth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor convened at the Hotel Commodore with more than 800 delegates in attendance. It was truly a great State Congress of Labor.

In addressing this convention, President Green emphasized the fact that the American Federation of Labor stands for labor peace and unity. He pointed to the repeated efforts made by the Executive Council to preach and to its unceasing attempts since the formation of the C. I. O. to bring it back into the fold of the A. F. of L. Without hesitation, he placed full and complete responsibility for failure to achieve peace where it belongs —on the leader of the C. I. O., John L. Lewis.

Referring to Lewis' recent pronouncement that peace was "impossible" and to his further move to raid the building trades unions, President Green asked the delegates directly:

"Will you red-blooded men and women permit anything like that to happen?"

The answer was a deafening "No!"

It seems to us that the public officials of this country who are friends of labor and who earnestly and sincerely desire to see labor re-united in the interests of progress should by this time see the light. It is no longer sufficient for them to issue pious expressions of their hope for peace. The time has come when they must, even if it is uncomfortable, take the realities of the situation into account and admit that John L. Lewis alone is blocking peace. Any other course in the light of the present situation could have no other effect than to confuse the public mind and strengthen Lewis in his determination to prevent peace. The American Federation of Labor is resolved not to let Lewis get away with it. The officials of our country must do the same if they are sincere.

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

KOHLER STRIKERS STAND FIRM AFTER FIVE YEARS' STRUGGLE

Silent Pickets Parade in Front of Factory at Annual Memorial in Honor of Two Union Members Killed in 1934.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

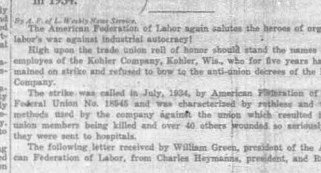
The American Federation of Labor again salutes the heroes of organized labor's war against industrial autocracy!

High upon the trade union roll of honor should stand the names of the employes of the Kohler Company, Kohler, Wis., who for five years have remained on strike and refused to bow to the anti-union decrees of the Kohler Company.

The strike was called in July, 1934, by American Federation of Labor Federal Union No. 18545 and was characterized by ruthless and violent methods used by the company against the union which resulted in two union members being killed and over 40 others wounded so seriously that they were sent to hospitals.

The following letter received by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, from Charles Heymanns, president, and Rudolph

Kohler Strikers Honor Memory of Two Slain Members



SILENT PICKETS PATROL KOHLER FACTORY—The strikers march in a circle. For the past five years after fifty-four members of the Kohler Company had been injured in a riot provoked by the Kohler Company, Kohler, Wis., the union pickets began. During the strike, Henry Engelmann and Lee Wakefield were slain and more than 20 pickets shot in the back in a riot

A. F. of L. Picket Camp, Kohler, Wisconsin

MEMORIAL EXERCISES IN HONOR OF TWO UNION MEMBERS KILLED IN COMPANY PROVOKED RIOT FIVE YEARS AGO—On the platform, left to right: Former Congressman T. R. Amlie (speaker); Charles Heymanns, president of Federal Union No. 18545; J. F. Friedrich, executive board member, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

Renn, secretary, of Federal Labor Union No. 18545, giving an account of the memorial exercises at Kohler, Wisconsin, in memory of the two slain workers, tells a story of courage and devotion to a cause that speaks for itself:

Sheboygan, Wis., August 7, 1939.

Mr. William Green, President, American Federation of Labor, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Marching silently in front of the sprawling Kohler Company plant at Kohler, Wisconsin, on July 29, 1939, members and friends of Federal Labor Union No. 18545 observed the Fifth Annual Memorial for Lee Wakefield and Henry Engelmann who were killed during a company-provoked riot at Kohler on July 27, 1934.

After conclusion of the memorial picketing the participants assembled at our picket camp just north of the Village of Kohler to hear addresses by the Hon. Thomas R. Amlie, former Congressman and now Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, and Brother J. F. Friedrich, member of the Executive Board of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor and organizer of the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council.

Radio Station WCFL, the Voice of Labor, Chicago, helped most generously in our arrangements by broadcasting a memorial program in the morning of the Memorial, which broadcast was heard by our members and friends in this section of the country.

Relatives of the two slain members, the seven year old daughter of Henry Engelmann and the aged parents of Lee Wakefield, participated in the Memorial.

With the happenings of the fatal night of July 27, 1934, still indelibly stamped in their memory, our members again paid tribute to our brothers who were sacrificed on the altar of intolerance and industrial feudalism which so well is characterized by the actions and attitude of the Kohler Company toward its workers.

For more than five years the members of Federal Labor Union No. 18545 have picketed the Kohler plant wherever it was operating.

Five years of continued struggle and suffering have not lessened our determination nor dimmed our hope to wrest union recognition from the Kohler Company, a company that is controlled by a man who advertises his "Model" village of Kohler as the home and field of the American worker.

During all this time we have received the generous support of the American Federation of Labor, the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor and the affiliated unions.

The boycott imposed against the unfair Kohler of Kohler products by Federal Labor Union No. 18545 has been endorsed and supported by both the American Federation of Labor and the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor with the result that the sales of the boycotted Kohler products have diminished to the extent where managerial representations and open lies are used by the salespeople of this concern in order to make sales. To claim that the strike has been terminated is only one of the methods used in this regard.

The generous financial donations to our strike fund by sister unions of the American Federation of Labor have enabled us to continue our fight and this generosity has been a source of encouragement and pride of our Local.

Mindful of the fact that our destiny rests upon the continued support of the American Federation of Labor Movement, we cordially ask you to give us the same publicity in the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service this year as was done the previous year. We enclose two pictures of this year's Memorial for this purpose.

Thanking you for your continued support and assuring you of our appreciation and thanks, we remain

Fraternally yours,
Federal Labor Union No. 18545
Charles Heymanns, President.
Rudolph Renn, Secretary.

150,000 MARCH IN N. Y. LABOR PARADE

Curtain Raiser for State Federation of Labor Convention Takes Twelve Hours to Pass Reviewing Stand.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—With flags and banners flying, 150,000 men, women and women marched up Fifth Avenue August 5 in the greatest labor parade in labor's history—a tremendous demonstration of the American Federation of Labor's strength and its devotion to democracy.

The parade, staged by the New York State Federation of Labor as a curtain raiser for its 76th Annual Convention, was a mighty one. Here Yorkers by its size, greatness and color.

The procession, led by President Thomas J. Lyons of the New York City Central Trades and Labor Council, with President William Green, members of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, Governor George Mealy of the State Federation of Labor and other important officials marching behind him, started from 16th Street to 59th Street. It began at 10 A. M. and lasted long after dark until 10 P. M. before all the enthusiastic marchers could pass the reviewing stand on the steps of the Public Library at 42nd Street.

After marching the full distance, President Green mounted the reviewing stand to review the pageant. The vociferous cheers from each unit in the parade as they passed by the reviewing stand and their shouts of "Hurray for Bill Green!" formed a tremendous public demonstration of the loyalty of the Nation's workers to the president of the American Federation of Labor.

It was a "shirtsleeve" parade. Most of the marchers were dressed informally, some in their working clothes. Nevertheless there was no lack of color as the thousands of locals participating vied with each other in seeking to produce the most striking floats and exhibitions of their various types of work.

An impressive feature of the parade was the participation of more than a thousand Negro trades which rumbled along slowly, driven by members of the Teamsters' Union.

Public officials representing both the City and the State, took part in the parade and were deeply impressed. Among them were Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, who marched at the head of the Fire Department, and Acting Governor Charles Poletti.

Bringing up the rear of the long march proclaimed the keynote of the parade. They read:

"Our city for Americanism!"

Among the honorary Grand Marshals of the parade were: Mayor La Guardia, Governor Poletti, Matthew Woll, president of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L.; George Meany, president of the New York State Federation of Labor; Emanuel Muravchik and James P. Holland, former presidents of the State Federation of Labor; John V. O'Hara, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation of Labor; Joseph P. Ryan and John Dillon, former presidents of the Central Trades and Labor Council; Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters Union, and Leo J. Buckley, president of the Stereotypers Union.

$20,000,000 HOUSING TO START IN NEW YORK

Mayor La Guardia Says Action on Five Projects Resulted From Agreement Ending Work Stoppages Caused by Jurisdiction Disputes.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Following the adoption by the New York City Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, representing the building trades unions, and the Associated General Contractors of America, representing the building industry, designed to eliminate work suspension because of jurisdictional disputes among the building trades unions, Mayor La Guardia announced at the World's Fair City Hall that $20,000,000 of new housing projects would go forward under the terms of the formula.

The Mayor said that for several weeks the projects had been held up pending an agreement between the various construction trades unions that they would not stop work because of inter-union disputes. Under the new arrangement no cessation of work will occur in a jurisdictional controversy. Instead, the matter will be adjusted by the Co-Chairmen, elected president of the A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department.

Mayor La Guardia said the new agreement would be applied immediately to the following projects in this city, involving a total cost of $20,000,000: The units will house 4,000 families, or about 15,000 persons. Three of the five are known as Vladeck Houses, Vladeck City Houses and South Jamaica Houses in Queens. The two Vladeck developments, named after the late B. Charney Vladeck, will be built in Corlears Hook, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. The Mayor said the two additional developments would be an-

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Lewis Is the Main Barrier to Peace In Labor Movement, Green Asserts

Tells New York State Federation of Labor Convention That the Head of the C. I. O. Is Responsible for the Split in Organized Labor's Forces.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Responsibility for the division and strife in the family of organized labor was positively and specifically placed on John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a convincing address delivered before the sixty-sixth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor here.

Mr. Green recounted the history of the controversy which was started by Lewis in 1935 when he and other rebels staged a coup within the government of the American Federation of Labor set up the Committee for Industrial Organization (now the Congress of Industrial Organizations) for the avowed purpose of making effective a policy supported by Lewis and his associates, which was overwhelmingly defeated by the delegates to the 1935 A. F. of L. convention. Then, after outlining the various efforts to settle the controversy by peaceful means, Mr. Lewis' recently announced scheme to establish C. I. O. building trades unions in opposition to the A. F. of L. building trades unions united in the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

"Red-blooded men and women of this convention, will you ever allow that condition to prevail?" he asked.

The answer was a tremendous "no."

A. F. of L. Must Retain Its Leadership

Mr. Green said the Federation was ready to fight to maintain its leadership of labor and its right to lead the organized workers of New York State.

"I assert as the spokesman of 5,000,000 working men and women that we will share with no other group the right to speak for labor in this commonwealth," Mr. Green said.

"I urge the leaders of this great movement to refuse at any time to modify this position. Stand solidly for it and never agree to share with any contending group, let it be a dual or rival rebel movement dominated by Communists, which wants to share with you the right to speak for working men and women in this commonwealth."

Mr. Green, after attacking Mr. Lewis for seeking to divide labor and thereby causing the division, said he would not quarrel with his job "that made one single contribution toward the division of labor into warring, fighting, labor camps."

A. F. of L. Will Not Be Liquidated

In citing Mr. Lewis's suggestion for the liquidation of both groups, Mr. Green said the A. F. of L. was first founded nine years old while the C. I. O. has just discarded its swaddling clothes.

"The significant feature of that proposal was this," he said. "I have read it in the official publications and organs and papers in Soviet Russia, circulated in Soviet Russia, weeks before he announced it to the press of America. That in itself is significant.

"There is the story, my friends, we have made our contribution. I have told you the truth. The record is a thing to divide labor."

Mr. Green's address was followed by a unanimous vote of confidence in the leadership of the Federation and its officers.

Work Stoppages Caused by Building Trades Jurisdiction Disputes Ended

President Coyne of A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department is Given Authority to Settle Controversies, According to an Understanding Between the Executive Council of the Department and Associated General Contractors.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Work stoppages developing from jurisdictional disputes in the building trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor were definitely ended as the result of an understanding reached in Atlantic City, N. J., between the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and the Associated General Contractors of America.

John P. Coyne, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Union of Operating Engineers, who was elected president of the Building and Construction Trades Department to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joseph A. McInerney, said that telegrams had been sent to unions of 300 construction jobs to return from 15,000 to 20,000 men to work.

The understanding stipulates that jurisdictional disputes are to be referred to Mr. Coyne for adjudication and the union in possession of the work at the time the dispute arises will continue at work pending an appeal to him.

In a statement announcing the finalizing of an "understanding with a committee representing Associated General Contractors of America for the ending of all stoppages of work due to jurisdictional disputes," the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department said:

Policy Presented by Contractors

"The agreement on jurisdictional disputes followed a series of conferences beginning August 8, when representatives of the contractors appeared before the Executive Council of the department to discuss problems of the industry, with special reference to suspensions of work due to jurisdictional disputes.

"The contractors committee, headed by E. P. Palmer of New York included on its membership, H. A. Dick, Chicago; Fred Geygan, J. S. Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa.; R. P. Larkin, Ridgefield, N. J.; E. J. Dunnigan, Sr., St. Paul, Minn.; J. Hodgins, San Francisco, Calif.; W. A. Klinger, Sioux City, Iowa; C. Vezzey, New York, N. Y.; F. S. Bellows, Houston, Texas, and George B. Walbridge, Detroit, Mich.

"The contractors presented to the council a resolution which was adopted at the contractor's convention in San Francisco, March 10, 1939, and John Posehl, vice president of the department, had presented its views on trade problems, the first time in the history of the association that a labor man had addressed the convention. This resolution read:

"To Improve Labor Relations

"'Whereas, In order to construct projects with greater efficiency and at the lowest possible cost, it is essential that wage rates to be paid, working conditions to be observed, and jurisdiction of crafts over all parts of the work be predetermined and remain constant throughout the construction until completion;

"'Therefore, Be It Resolved by the 20th Annual Convention of The Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., San Francisco, California, March 6-10, 1939, that the Managing Director be authorized and directed to take action toward obtaining for general contractors working under agreements with organized labor conditions under which:

"'(1) Uniform conditions covering daily and weekly hours of employment will prevail for all crafts engaged on the work; and

"'(2) Wage rates to be paid and working conditions to be observed shall be established at the level prevailing when the contract is signed, until the completion of the project;

"'(3) Adequate provision is made for the training of apprentices in the various crafts in such proportion that the ranks of skilled workers be constantly replete;

"'(4) Disputes or misunderstandings arising as to union craft or territorial jurisdiction be promptly settled, giving due consideration to the interest of the employer through the most effective means without stoppage of work. Work shall proceed with the craft controlling the work previous to the dispute.

"The matter was referred to a com-

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A. F. of L. Council Submits Settlement Plan For Theatrical Unions Dispute

Calls on Actors and Artistes Union to Reinstate American Federation of Actors, Revoke Charter Issued to American Guild of Variety Artists, and Hold Election to Select Officials of the AFA.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in session in Atlantic City, N. J., presented a constructive plan for settling the dispute among the theatrical unions.

The dispute was engendered in certain charges made against the officials of the American Federation of Actors, an affiliate of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The officials of the Actors and Artists cited the officials of the American Federation of Actors for trial. The A. F. of L. refused to sustain the charges and challenged the authority of the Actors and Artistes to hold the trial. The Actors and Artistes proceeded with the trial, revoked the charter of the A. F. of L. and chartered the American Guild of Variety Artists to take its place. The Actors Federation thereupon appealed to the courts for an injunction challenging the legal authority of the Actors and Artistes to revoke its charter. Meanwhile George E. Browne, president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, issued a charter to the American Federation of Actors. This was the tangled situation presented to the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

In its decision the Council recognized the jurisdiction of the Associated Actors and Artistes over all performers in the amusement and entertainment world, expressed the belief that the charges against the Actors and Artistes in revoking the charter of the American Federation of Actors was unduly severe, called upon the Actors and Artistes to reinstate the charter of the American Federation of Actors and all of its officers and members, withdraw the charter issued to the American Guild of Variety Artists, and that an election of all officers of the American Federation of Actors be held within 90 days.

Pending the election the American Federation of Actors would be managed by a committee of 10 composed of representatives of all the actors groups and three representatives of the American Federation of Labor. In addition the Council instructed the Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators International Alliance to withdraw the charter issued to the American Federation of Actors.

The text of the Executive Council's decision follows:

The Executive Council having carefully considered all phases of the present unfortunate controversy in the amusement and entertainment world and desirous of effecting an adjustment in keeping with the constitutional requirements, rules and regulations of the American Federation of Labor, and with fairness, equity and justice to all concerned, has reached the following conclusion and decision:

Jurisdiction of Actors and Artistes Defined

I. The Associated Actors and Artistes is an affiliated international union, chartered by the American Federation of Labor and as such is entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges accorded any other national and international union. While the Executive Council is glad that its efforts in freely conceded, including its right to secure enforcement of its laws, rules and regulations by whatever means it may prescribe, nevertheless, our Federation, with us another as national and international unions requires that the rights and interests of all other affiliates must be considered and be fairly dealt with.

II. The jurisdiction of the Associated Actors and Artistes as hereto-

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EDITORIALS

Wage-Chiseling Employers Retain Right To Grab Government Contracts

The entire labor movement of the United States and all other progressive groups are profoundly dissatisfied with the failure of the House of Representatives to consider and enact the Ellenbogen bill, which would have given practical respects the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act which became a part of federal statutes in 1936.

The Walsh-Healey Act was designed to prevent the expenditure of government funds for supplies manufactured by concerns which impose substandard labor conditions upon their employees. To accomplish this commendable purpose the act required firms holding government contracts to apply the eight-hour day and five-day week, pay prevailing wage rates as determined by the Secretary of Labor, bar child labor and the labor of convicts, and provide sanitary plants and decent surroundings.

The 1936 act was applicable to contracts involving purchase of $10,000 or more of supplies. Experience indicated that the scope and effectiveness of the law was materially lessened by the $10,000 limit. The Senate bill amended that to this extent by providing that all contracts costing in excess of $4,000 shall come under the provisions of the law. It also required subcontractors and contractors for services and the construction of ships and floating equipment to comply with the law.

In addition, the Senate bill contained an amendment barring from bidding on government contracts employers found guilty of appropriate federal courts of violating the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, which guarantees working men and women the rights to organize in unions of their own choice and select representatives for collective bargaining purposes, and prohibits employers from interfering with these rights.

After thorough discussion, the Ellenbogen-Walsh-Healey Act was passed by the Senate on July 17 without a dissenting vote. It was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 18, where it was entombed in the pigeon holes of inaction. Senator Walsh of Massachusetts said:

"We are making an effort to provide that when the Government itself spends the taxpayers' money, even if it costs a little more, sweatshops and chiselers and crooked business establishments shall not get contracts but employers who maintain decent conditions for their workers shall be rewarded with contracts."

All progressive citizens are deeply disappointed in the action of the House of Representatives in not subscribing to the ethical and constructive policy so trenchantly expressed by Senator Walsh and expediting through the process of parliamentary procedure the Ellenbogen bill, designed to give general financial support from wage and hour chiseling employers and award government contracts to employers who maintain decent wages, hours, and work conditions for their employes.

A Setback for Low-Rent Housing

It is regrettable from every viewpoint of social justice that a non-partisan bloc in the House of Representatives has mobilized enough strength in the closing days of the first session of the Seventy-sixth Congress to refuse to consider the Wagner low-rent housing and slum-clearance bill already passed by the Senate and reported favorably by the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

It is an admitted fact that many thousands of workers in the low-income group are compelled to live in slum areas infested with dilapidation and disease, which are the normal breeding places of crime, delinquency and other conditions in the slums, undermine the living standards of millions of families. Furthermore, the many thousands of workers in the building trades have been more severely afflicted with unemployment than any other group.

To provide decent dwelling accommodations for the low-income groups and at the same time stimulate reemployment, increase industrial activity and unite business and labor in fundamental improvements, Congress in 1937 established the United States Housing Authority with the authorization to issue its bonds to the amount of $800,000,000 and lend the proceeds to States and their political subdivisions for the purpose of eliminating their slums and providing decent housing for slum dwellers and others whose incomes are insufficient to enable them to pay the rent demanded for housing constructed by private enterprise.

In addition, the United States Housing Authority was authorized to make annual contributions to these and local housing agencies so that the rents fixed for the housing projects might be reduced to a figure within the reach of the low-income families with whom the housing was designed to benefit.

In 1938 Congress adopted amendments increasing the bond authorization of the United States Housing Authority to $800,000,000.

All of the money for the housing projects made available to the United States Housing Authority have been earmarked and committed for slum clearance and low-rent housing projects, with many requests from local housing authorities held up for lack of funds.

To meet this contingency and to make it possible for the housing program to proceed in a systematic manner, Senator Wagner introduced an amendment making an additional $800,000,000 available for the United States Housing Authority to lend to State and local housing authorities for slum clearance and the construction of low-rent housing which the low-income groups could pay. In addition, the bill contained specific mandates to provide for the construction of low-rent housing accommodations in rural areas as well as in urban areas.

The Wagner bill would undoubtedly ameliorate the indecent housing conditions which are now imposed on thousands and thousands of wage earners in the low-income groups. It would also exhilarate business recovery in all industries which furnish materials and supplies for building purposes. And, last but not least, it would provide employment for hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers now consigned to the unemployed army.

Despite the many business and social benefits which the Wagner slum-clearance and low-rent housing bill would develop, a shortsighted and reactionary non-partisan bloc in the House of Representatives refused to even consider the bill.

Action of this sort turns democratic legislative procedure into a mockery.

Punishment for Violators of Workmen's Compensation Laws

Laws requiring employers to provide funds to compensate working men and women for injuries causing temporary or permanent disability and the dependents of workers killed in industrial accidents are among our most humane statutes.

Such legislation is preeminently just. It is therefore difficult to believe that there are those who defend their legal right to evade or refuse to assume liability to provide the fund established by State statutes and obey the rules set up for the proper administration of the laws.

But that unpardonable attitude exists is revealed in the report by Frieda S. Miller, Industrial Commissioner of New York State, that the Attorney General acting for the Commissioner of Labor during June for violations of the workmen's compensation law and won 270 convictions.

The Labor Department charged the workmen's compensation law by fake partnerships or contracts in 47 cases. In 43 of these cases convictions were obtained.

Fines imposed in 180 cases ranged from $1 to $50 and totaled $1,200.

The rules which employers are required to observe under workmen's compensation laws are plain and easy to observe. There is doubtful if microscopic fines are effective.

In those States which are so ethical that judicial clemency is out of place with regard to persons found guilty of violating them. Workmen's compensation laws are in the category of statutes where full penalties should be imposed.

JURISDICTIONAL STRIKES END LAUDED BY HARDING

Spokesman for Contractors' Group Says "Investors May Now Go Ahead Without Fear."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The ending of work stoppages resulting from jurisdictional disputes among the building trades under the terms of an understanding reached between the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and the Associated General Contractors of America was applauded here by Edward J. Harding, managing director of the contractors, on his return from Atlantic City, where the agreement was finalized.

The understanding, Mr. Harding said, was a cooperative achievement outstanding in the history of the labor relations movement in the construction industry. The understanding was also, according to Mr. Harding, the culmination of long continued efforts by this and other men on both sections of a four-point program adopted at a conference between the contractors in San Francisco last month.

"Suspensions of work due to jurisdictional disputes," Mr. Harding declared, "ended with the Atlantic City understanding. Work stoppages will be adjudicated by the impartial president of the Building and Construction Trades Department and the work shall proceed pending such decision.

"To the investor in construction, both private and public, this action means that he may go ahead with his construction without fear of delays and waste which would result from stoppage of work from this cause.

"We are mightily pleased with the action of the Department and will continue to work with President Coyne and his associates to develop ways and means of advancing our mutual interests."

$20,000 HOUSING TO START IN NEW YORK

(Continued From Page 1)

nounced shortly and would be built without delay.

"All parties hope that this formula will make possible the elimination of stoppages of work due to jurisdictional disputes," said Mr. Coyne, standing with the Mayor as the latter announced the plan.

He explained that the trade union claiming jurisdiction would retain that jurisdiction until he made his decision. Alfred Bingham, co-director of the New York City Housing Authority; Edward F. McGrady, former Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Thomas A. Murray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council, also were present for the announcement.

Mr. McGrady said the new plan was "the greatest step forward in the building in dustry in a generation," while Mr. Murray said it was a "great step," said Mr. Murray. "I am quite sure that it will be a great help to the building industry in this locality."

Work Stoppages Caused by Building Trades Jurisdiction Disputes Ended

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"Under the agreement reached and unanimously approved, the Executive Council of the Department instructed all international presidents to immediately return all men to work on jobs stopped because of jurisdictional disputes between trades affiliated with the department, all work in dispute to remain in possession of the trade in possession of the work at the time of stoppage and pending settlement the work pending an appeal to, and a decision by the president of the department.

"Disputes arising from now on are to be referred to the president of the Department as provided for by the constitution of the Department, work to continue by the trade in possession of it, pending his decision.

"After the action of the council, the joint committee met and arranged for the procedure governing the method of exploring trade problems and developing machinery for the avoidance of jurisdictional disputes.

Praised by Harding

"Speaking for the contractors, E. J. Harding, Managing Director of the Association, declared the action taken today to be the signal for construction to go ahead.

"'We are,' said he, 'mightily pleased with the action of the department and will continue to work with President Coyne and his associates to develop ways and means of advancing our mutual interests.

"By reasons of the action of the Executive Council there will be no cessation of work because of disputes between affiliated unions on any and all types of construction coming under the jurisdiction of the department."

Plan to End Jurisdictional Strikes In Building Trades Praised by Coyne

New President of A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department Says Understanding With Associated Contractors Will Provide Jobs for Many Thousands of Workers.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Work on approximately 300 building jobs employing between 15,000 and 20,000 men held up by jurisdictional disputes was resumed on August 12, in accordance with an order issued by John P. Coyne, newly elected president of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, acting under instructions of its Executive Council.

Mr. Coyne's order was issued in connection with the understanding reached between the Executive Council of the Department and the Associated General Contractors of America providing that jurisdictional disputes should be referred to Mr. Coyne for adjustment without suspension of work.

Asserting that more jobs would be resumed within the next few days, Mr. Coyne said that as four men are required to supply material for each man at work on the site, the return-to-work order meant employment for from 60,000 to 80,000 men.

The agreement to send all disputes to him for decision with work continuing while the cases are under consideration, was wired to all centers, and the response, Mr. Coyne asserted, was "splendid."

"If, as I believe, we have cleaned up the immediate situation, and cleared the way for a permanent cure of the evil, it is the most progressive step made in the building and construction industry in the history of the department," he declared.

"This is not the time to attempt to fix blames for these strikes. The truth is that they are simply the unfortunate but inevitable but properly be called a by-product of a technical progress that has given us better buildings, that has given us the development of the sky scraper. New methods, new materials, new processes have all led to disputes as to who would apply them.

"Men whose work was modified or replaced by the new methods very naturally sought to secure the new work; others with whose work the new was closely related as naturally sought the new work.

"Owners, architects and builders sought to get what advantage they could.

"Now it is agreed between ourselves that we will settle such disputes ourselves. Agreements have further agreed to respect our decisions and enforce them on their members.

"There is the thing in a nutshell. "Eventually machinery will be set up to settle all these jurisdictional problems. That cannot be done over night.

"The developments of the last few days did not come over night. We have been working on them for two years or more; so have the contractors. Ancient prejudices had to be overcome. A spirit of confidence developed. That we have succeeded is a tribute to patience and persistency."

Bus Company Thwarted in Attempt to Use C. I. O. Against A. F. L. Street and Electric Railway Employes Association

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Chicago, Ill.—An instructive account of the defeat by an arbitration award of a scheme of the Chicago Motor Bus Company to force members of an A. F. of L. union into the C. I. O. is contained by the company is published in The Union Leader, the Chicago weekly official organ of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America.

"An attempt to use the 'closed shop' to force bona fide union membership is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor into a company-dominated C. I. O. organization was thwarted last week in an important decision handed down by a board of arbitration in Washington, West Virginia," the article said.

"The organizations involved are Division 1171 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L., and Local 919 of the C. I. O. Transport Workers Union. Members are employes of the Ohio Valley Bus Company.

Arbitration Board Named

"The Ohio Valley Bus Company recently entered into a closed shop agreement with the C. I. O. organization. The latter promptly demanded that the Amalgamated Local pay $15 initiation fees, and join up, or be discharged. They paid the initiation under protest and after considerable negotiation were successful in forcing the creation of an arbitration board which was formed consisting of Dr. F. T. Ellsworth, of the University of Cincinnati, chairman; O. David Zimring of the Labor Bureau of the Middle West, and L. A. Salle Sr., Chicago, representing the Amalgamated Association, and John B. Easton, representing the C. I. O.

Company Unions Were Formed

"The arbitration hearings brought out evidence to show that the Ohio Valley Bus Company had in two occasions in the past formed, dominated and supported 'company unions.' Its attorneys also refused to be so coerced formed Division 1171 of the Amalgamated Association. Some of them were discharged. The Labor Board upheld their contention that the discharges were solely for union activity. Only one was reinstated with back pay and others were ordered reinstated.

"The facts regarding the attitude of this company toward legitimate trade unions and the cooperation of the C. I. O. in an effort to destroy the Amalgamated Association, locally are clearly brought out in the brief but effective testimony of the Board of Arbitration, which declares:

"'The Ohio Valley Bus Company has a long history of unorganized union, culminating in the formation of the First City Transit Union late in 1937. Division 1171 of the Amalgamated Association was organized at about the same time, and from the intimidation encountered, the officers of the company in the form of hostility to and discrimination against its members, the ability to expand its membership was undoubtedly severely hampered by the company's attitude.

Anti-Union Men Join C. I. O. Unit

"'About a year after the organization of Division 1171 there was preliminary organizing activity and after what appears to have been a rather superficial investigation, a charter was granted by the C. I. O. to Local 919, of the Transport Workers Union, which after a merger of the F.C.T.U. which ended in its dissolution, the organization of Local 919 took place, with a prepared list of officers (including at least three who had been officers of or active in the preceding company union) being elected.

"'Local 919 was promptly joined by workers who were known anti-union men. Moreover, members of Local 919 were never, after its organization, subjected to pressure or intimidation by the company.

Company Signed C. I. O. Contract

"'Within four months of its organization, and after brief negotiations with the company, a contract was signed establishing Local 919 as a closed shop organization. The facts do not indicate that pressure was exerted upon the company to grant the best possible terms for the workers. In the opinion of the Board, these and other circumstances disclosed, together with its prompt recognition by the company in preference to the latter's course of opposition to Division 1171, cast serious suspicion upon the degree of its independence.

C. I. O. Closed Shop Agreement Assailed

"'One month after the signing of the contract with the company a strike was called by Local 919 in contravention of its contract. Apparently the strike was not regarded seriously by the company, since close association was maintained throughout the strike between company officials and members of the local, while members of Local 919, at the request of company officials, transported passengers in private cars. There was no issue in dispute between members of Local 919 and the company, the sole purpose of the strike (and the penalty initiation fee of $15) being to force members of Division 1171 to join Local 919. To say the least the strike was one of very dubious character.

"'While in no way denying the desirability in general of a closed shop contract, when such is in force between an employer and a bona fide union, it is the opinion of the Board that to compel members of Division 1171, the Amalgamated Association, admittedly a bona fide union, to join Local 919, would, in view of all the circumstances, be unfair to these workers. Therefore it is the recommendation of the Board that the closed shop provision of the contract between Local 919 and the Ohio Valley Bus Company should be made inoperable to members of Division 1171, and that the special and regular union dues and fees paid by them into escrow be returned to them.'

"The decision of the arbitration board was final and binding upon both organizations and is not subject to appeal, the National Labor Relations Board or any other agency.

A. F. of L. Council Submits Settlement Plan For Theatrical Unions Dispute

(Continued From Page 1)

amusement and entertainment world we call upon the Associated Actors and Artists to reinstate the American Federation of Actors, all its officers and members and withdraw the charter issued to the American Guild of Variety Artists, thus reestablishing the status quo and under the following conditions and assurances:

a. That there be held nominations and elections for all offices and for all elective offices of the American Federation of Actors within the period of 90 days, present officers to continue in the interim and as hereinafter provided.

b. All members of the American Federation of Actors and of the American Guild of Variety Artists are to be eligible for nomination and election and to participate in the voting.

c. Pending nominations and elections, all the affairs of the American Federation of Actors are to be conducted under the guidance and supervision of a committee of ten, made up as follows:

1 Associated Actors and Artistes, 1; Equi-ty, 1; Chorus Equity, 1; Radio Artists, 1; Screen Actors, 1; American Federation of Actors, 2; American Federation of Labor, 3.

d. Action of the duties of ten is also to be authorized and empowered to fix the rules, regulations and conditions for the conduct of nominations and elections of officers and offices hereinbefore provided including determining of all questions of eligibility of members to vote, and such other questions as may arise.

V. We call upon the American Federation of Actors immediately to withdraw all litigation now pending and likewise immediately to withdraw from the I. A. T. S. E.

VI. In view of the following, the I. A. T. S. E. is hereby instructed to withdraw the charter issued to the American Federation of Actors.

VII. We call upon all parties concerned and their interests to carry out these conclusions and decisions in the spirit in which they are presented, that is to the end that unity, harmony and cooperation may not only be restored in the field of amusement and entertainment world, but so that there may be given public service undertaking may, by example and deed, indicate to all the incalculable benefits to be derived from peace and unity within the industry, to the public, to the industry and to all engaged therein.

Woll Sees Danger to Workers' Rights In Government Regulation of Unions

Says Maladministration of Wagner Act Reveals Menace of Relying on Law to Secure and Labor's Liberty.

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS)—The tendency of working men and women to rely on the Government in the struggle to secure their rights was, deplored by Matthew Woll, a vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the seventy-sixth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor here. As an outstanding example of the hazards concealed in regulating labor relations by statute law, Mr. Woll cited the attempt of the Union that has resulted from the maladministration of the National Labor Relations Act.

"Reliance on the Government for labor to lean on the Government, Mr. Woll said.

"The danger first of all is that statute enactments or Congressional enactments designed to clarify the rights of labor intended to safeguard and protect the rights of labor may be interpreted and may be administered as a means of regulating and controlling the conduct of labor.

"As evidence of that danger, I call your attention to that which has been transpiring under the administration of the National Labor Relations Act, an act designed primarily to set out the lawful, fair and orderly rights of labor and to safeguard those rights, to prevent intrusion of those rights on the part of employers, but not to control or to regulate or to shape or to formulate the character of trade union conduct or opinion that might survive or that might function within our industrial life.

"Yet that very purpose is now sought to be accomplished—under the National Labor Relations Act it is sought to determine the character of organization that the wage earners shall adopt, determine the course the wage earners but by those exercising that great authority of government given to them by reason of the National Labor Relations Act.

"And herein lies the great conflict as to the existence of that law and its administration, the danger of rights of labor which being so interpreted and being so administered as to rule, to control, to regulate the trade unions and their activities and their conduct.

"Again, time will not permit of carrying this analysis to a definite reached, to indicate clearly the truth and the validity of the statements that I have presented to you. Hence the necessity of careful consideration of all that is involved and protective action on the part of the workers to be sure that this legislation designed to benefit will not be ultimately enslave labor to the powers of government.

"God knows labor knows well the power that government wields, because we have lived under it for many years to our great sorrow, and we must be sure that we do not even once again revert to that condition under other auspices or directions."

Scalise Intervenes in New York Building Service Employes Union Controversy

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

George Scalise, president of the Building Service Employes International Union, announced at Atlantic City, August 12-B's new policy to order an immediate investigation of the controversy involving officers and members of Local 32-B, New York City.

This decision followed a conference with William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who was in Atlantic City during the summer meeting of the A. F. of L. Executive Council. All parties to the controversy in New York were present and agreed with President Green's recommendation that they seek to settle their problems through the established processes of their union or organization rather than resort to the courts.

Accordingly, it was agreed that President Scalise designate an outstanding and impartial leader in the labor movement to investigate the entire situation and then report to President Scalise and President Green. At the conference of the two officials Mr. Scalise made public the following statement:

"The International Union, with the cooperation of Mr. Green, directed the general officers of Local 32-B to appear before Mr. Green and myself, so that we might get at the facts. The men and their charges and counter-charges and the resulting bitter animosity is causing the membership to be deprived of the leadership of their officers to which they are entitled. This condition creates uncertainty and confusion in the minds of the members, and throws the door wide open for unscrupulous employers to use every advantage possible under these circumstances. We cannot permit such a situation to continue.

"When the preliminary investigation is concluded, the International Union, with the advice and cooperation of Mr. Green, will determine what steps are to take to protect the rights and interests of every member. I want to assure the membership that every effort and consideration will be thoroughly investigated and if there has been any wrong-doing, that guilt will be adequately established. The investigation will not be limited to any drag out. Prompt action will be taken."

Those who participated in the conference with Mr. Green and Mr. Scalise included: Thomas Burke, vice president International union; James J. Bambrick, president Local No. 32-B; Dave Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of the local; Arthur Rainbow, vice president of the local, and Thomas Young, recording secretary of the local.

D. C. SIGHTSEEING BUS DRIVERS WIN PAY BOOST

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—After a two-and-one-half day strike, 142 sightseeing bus drivers and lecturers, members of Division 1177 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, came to terms with the management of Grey Line Sightseeing Tours Company here.

The union gained the closed shop, pay raises, a limit on working hours and the virtual abandonment of the practice of having drivers act as lecturers.

The new agreement calls for 42 cents an hour for lecturers with less than three years' experience, 46 cents an hour after three years, a 66-hour work week limit. Drivers will get 46 cents an hour for the first three years of service and 55 cents an hour thereafter. They will work a maximum 60-hour week.

Both the company and the union agreed that the company may open its two small buses to the driver-only as lecturer.

At the time of the walkout the union issued a statement which said: "We are striking for better working conditions. We are striking against a less-than-living-wage, a wage as low as 30 cents an hour. Hence the Union is forced to have it that hourly wage and none of its have received more than 40 cents an hour. We have averaged somewhere the $25 for a work week of 60 to 66 hours."

COYNE HEADS A. F. OF L. BUILDING TRADES DEPT.

Masterson Is Elected Vice President and Executive Council Member.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—At its recent meeting at Atlantic City, N. J., the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor elected John P. Coyne, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Union of Operating Engineers, president of the department and a member of the Council by the death of Joseph A. McTernny.

The Executive Council also elected George Masterson, assistant president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, to the position of vice-president of the Building and Construction Trades Department and a member of the Council.

35 CENT HOURLY SHOE INDUSTRY WAGE URGED

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Industry Committee No. 6, under the Fair Labor Standards Act, voted unanimously to recommend a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour for shoe manufacturing and allied industries to Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Spokesmen for the Wage and Hour Division said that should their rate be approved by the Administrator after a public hearing in which interested parties may appear in support of or opposition to the proposal, it would increase the hourly wage rates of approximately 60,000 workers in the periods of average production.